

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method for inactivating viruses in a blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue and an amount of the blood or blood component in separate sterile containers, each container having an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material and the container in which the blood or blood component is stored includes portions that are made of a polyvinyl chloride material;

forming a mixture by adding at least a portion of the amount of the methylene blue to the amount of the blood or blood component wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue and further wherein the mixture formed is within one of the containers in which the methylene blue or blood or blood component is initially stored under sterile conditions; and

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of Claim 28 wherein the blood component is selected from the group consisting of: plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of Claim 28 further comprising the step of: adding the methylene blue to the container in which the blood or blood component is already stored.

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of Claim 28 further comprising the step of: adding the blood or blood component to the container that contains methylene blue.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of Claim 28 further comprising the step of: transporting the mixture in the container in which the mixture is formed on a conveyor past at least two light sources.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of Claim 28 wherein the light field is generated by at least one array of light emitting diodes.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of Claim 28 wherein the mixture is irradiated by the light field for a cumulative period of at least five minutes.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A method for inactivating viruses in a blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue having a pH of less than 7.0 in a container that includes an interior and at least one port extending from the container that provides controlled access to the interior, the container is constructed of a plastic material and includes an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material;

forming a mixture by adding at least a portion of the amount of the methylene blue to an amount of the blood or blood component, by use of the port, wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue and further wherein the mixture formed is within either the container or in a second container that initially housed the blood or blood component; and

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of Claim 40 wherein the blood component is selected from the group consisting of: plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method for inactivating viruses in a blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue in a container that includes an interior and at least one port extending from the container that provides controlled access to the interior, the container is constructed of a plastic material and includes an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material;

forming a mixture by adding at least a portion of the amount of the methylene blue to an amount of the blood or blood component, by use of the port, wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue and further wherein the mixture formed is within either the container or in a second container that initially housed the blood or blood component;

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed;

~~The method of Claim 40~~ wherein the container in which the mixture is formed does not include any polyvinyl chloride plastic.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method of Claim 40 further comprising the step of: adding the methylene blue to the second container in which the blood or blood component is housed.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of Claim 40 wherein the container in which the mixture is formed includes a polyvinyl chloride material.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A method for inactivating viruses in a blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue in a container that includes an interior and at least one port extending from the container that provides controlled access to the interior, the container is constructed of a plastic material and includes an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material;

forming a mixture by adding the blood or blood component to the container that contains methylene blue, by use of the port, wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue; and

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A method for inactivating viruses in a blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue in a container that includes an interior and at least one port extending from the container that provides controlled access to the interior, the container is constructed of a plastic material and includes an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material;

forming a mixture by adding at least a portion of the amount of the methylene blue to an amount of the blood or blood component, by use of the port, wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue and further wherein the mixture formed is within either the container or in a second container that initially housed the blood or blood component; and

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed;

~~The method of Claim 40~~ wherein the container in which the mixture is formed comprises at least an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride material.

Claim 48 (currently amended) A method for inactivating viruses in a blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue in a container that includes an interior and at least one port extending from the container that provides controlled access to the interior, the container is constructed of a plastic material and includes an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material;

forming a mixture by adding at least a portion of the amount of the methylene blue to an amount of the blood or blood component, by use of the port, wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue and further wherein the mixture formed is within either the container or in a second container that initially housed the blood or blood component;

transporting the mixture in the container in which the mixture is formed on a conveyor past at least two light sources; and

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A method for inactivating viruses in a blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue in a container that includes an interior and at least one port extending from the container that provides controlled access to the interior, the container is constructed of a plastic material and includes an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material;

forming a mixture by adding at least a portion of the amount of the methylene blue to an amount of the blood or blood component, by use of the port, wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue and further wherein the mixture formed is within either the container or in a second container that initially housed the blood or blood component;

allowing excess methylene blue to leach into the container in which the blood or blood component is stored after mixture with the methylene blue; and

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The method of Claim 40 wherein the light field is generated by at least one array of light emitting diodes.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The method of Claim 40 wherein the mixture is irradiated by the light field for a cumulative period of at least five minutes.